

August 6, 1999

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)  
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Room 1061  
Rockville, MD. 20852

CONCERNING DOCKET NUMBERS: 98N-1230  
96P-0418  
97P-0197

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To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing to protest the forced molting of hens and ask that you take action to ban this dangerous and abusive action.

The US egg industry every year FORCES millions of egg hens to go through unnatural moltings in order to make more eggs. This is such a stressful process for the birds- they are often starved for up to 14 days at a time- that their immune system is destroyed and they become susceptible to disease AS WELL AS salmonella poisoning, which could kill the consumer. The FSIS recognizes this health concern.

I ask you to take action. Egg laying hens are considered a low priority to many people in terms of deserving protection and the right to a decent and healthy life. They are a living, breathing, sentient being deserving of our care and protection.

Putting warning labels on egg cartons is not enough. The practice of manipulating the hen's natural life pattern for the production of eggs must be stopped, for the welfare of the hen as well as the safety of all egg purchasers.

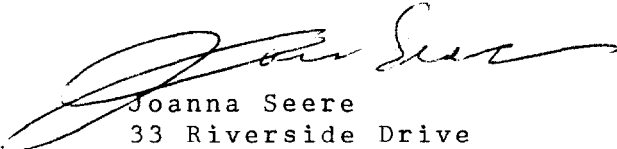
FORCED MOLTING MUST BE PROHIBITED- it has been proven to destroy the hen's immune system and leave the hen susceptible to disease. Forced molting is the primary cause of infectious disease in hens and eggs.

CRUELTY AND CONTAMINATION GO HAND IN HAND. Stop one and you stop the other.

Pass the laws that protect the hens and ENFORCE THEM and all consumers will be safer. I urge you to do it today, for everyone's sake.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

  
Joanna Seere  
33 Riverside Drive  
New York, N.Y. 10023

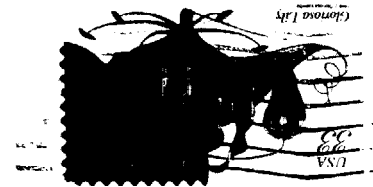
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The Humane Society of the United States



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20857/0001



CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ C165

See File Number:

97P-0197/ C166  
96P-0418/ C165